

U.S. Serial No.: 10/629,978
Filed: July 30, 2003
Group Art Unit: 3739
Examiner: Peter J. Vrettakos
Atty. Docket No.: 22956-324

REMARKS

The pending Office Action addresses and rejects claims 28-30, 32-40, and 42-71.

At the outset, Applicant thanks Examiner Vrettakos for extending the courtesy of a personal interview with Applicant's attorney on January 26, 2005. During the interview, an agreement was reached that the claims distinguish over the art of record.

Amendments

Applicant amends the specification to include a cross-reference to the related applications. No new matter is added.

Applicant amends claims 51 and 56, pursuant to the Examiner's request, to replace the term "opposed" with "opposite." Applicant cancels claims 58-67, which will be pursued in a continuation application. Applicant also adds new claim 72 which recites a suture anchor. No new matter is added.

Claim Rejections

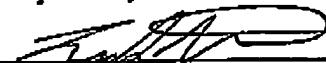
As noted above, the Examiner has agreed that the pending claims distinguish over the art of record, thereby obviating the basis for the claim rejections set forth in the pending Office Action.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicants if such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 4, 2005


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